

Appl. No. 09/872,141  
 Amd. Dated October 17, 2005  
 Reply to Final Office Action of August 9, 2005 and  
 Advisory Action of October 4, 2005

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (previously presented): A device for creating a path between a first element and a second element, the path being arranged to include a third element, wherein the first element, the second element, and the third element are included in an optical network, the device comprising:

a processor; and

a storage device, the storage device being arranged to store computer code for implementing a first mechanism which causes the third element to be identified, the storage device further being arranged to store computer code for implementing a second mechanism which causes the path between the first element and the second element to be computed such that the path traverses the third element, wherein the processor processes the computer codes and the first mechanism is arranged to identify the third element and a fourth element as being components of the path, the fourth element being arranged to be traversed after the third element is traversed, the path including a plurality of segments which includes a first segment associated with the first element and the third element, the second mechanism being further arranged to compute the first segment, the storage device further being arranged to store computer code for implementing a third mechanism which causes the fourth element and the second element to be substantially prevented from being included as a part of the first segment, wherein the second mechanism is further arranged to compute a second segment associated with the fourth element, the second segment being included in the plurality of segments, and wherein the third mechanism is arranged to substantially prevent the first element and the second element from being included as a part of the second segment.

Appl. No. 09/872,141  
 Amd. Dated October 17, 2005  
 Reply to Final Office Action of August 9, 2005 and  
 Advisory Action of October 4, 2005

Claim 9 (original): A device according to claim 8 wherein the second mechanism is further arranged to compute a third segment associated with the second element, the third segment being included in the plurality of segments, and wherein the third mechanism is arranged to substantially prevent the first element and the third element from being included as a part of the third segment.

Claims 10-13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (previously presented): An apparatus for creating a path between a first element and a second element in an optical network, the path being arranged to include a third element, the apparatus comprising:

a first means for identifying the third element;

a second means for computing a path between the first element and the second element such that the path traverses the third element, wherein the first means identifies the third element as being a component of the path and identifies a fourth element as being a component of the path, the fourth element arranged to be traversed after the third element is traversed, the path being arranged to include plurality of segments, the second means being arranged to compute a first segment associated with the first element and the third element, the first segment being included in the plurality of segments; and

a third means for substantially preventing the fourth element and the second element from being included in the first segment, wherein the second means computes a second segment associated with the fourth element, the second segment being included in the plurality of segments, and wherein the third mean substantially prevents the first element and the second element from being associated with the second segment.

Claim 15 (original): An apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the second means computes a third segment associated with the second element, the third segment being included in the plurality of segments, and wherein the third means substantially prevents the first element and the third element from being associated with the third segment.

Appl. No. 09/872,141  
 Amd. Dated October 17, 2005  
 Reply to Final Office Action of August 9, 2005 and  
 Advisory Action of October 4, 2005

Claims 16-17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (previously presented): An apparatus for routing a path between a source node and a destination node included within a network, the network further including a plurality of elements, the apparatus comprising:

an identifier for identifying a set of elements to be included in the path, the set of elements being included in the plurality of elements;

a blocker for blocking at least a first element included in the set of elements from being used in generating a first segment of the path, wherein the blocker blocks substantially all elements included in the set of elements except for the second element from being used in generating the first segment of the path; and

a path router, the path router being arranged to generate the first segment such that the first segment includes the source node and a second element, the second element being included in the set of elements, wherein the first segment does not include the first element and the blocker is arranged to unblock the second element after the first segment is generated and to block at least one element included in the plurality of elements from being included in a second segment of the path, the at least one element included in the plurality of elements being a component of the first segment.

Claim 19 (original): An apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the path router is further arranged to generate the second segment such that the second element is a component of the second segment.

Claim 20 (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 18 [[ 17 ]] wherein the blocker is further arranged to block the source node from being included in the second segment.

Claims 21-24 (canceled)

Appl. No. 09/872,141  
 Amd. Dated October 17, 2005  
 Reply to Final Office Action of August 9, 2005 and  
 Advisory Action of October 4, 2005

Claim 25 (previously presented): A method for computing a circuit path between a source node and a destination node of an optical network, the method comprising:

identifying at least a first element that is to be traversed by the circuit path between the source node and the destination node;

identifying a second element that is to be traversed by the circuit path between the first element and the destination node;

blocking the second element from being available for use in routing a first segment automatically;

blocking the destination node from being available for use in routing the first segment automatically;

routing the first segment automatically, the first segment being a part of the circuit path, wherein when the first element is a node, the source node and the first element are components of the first segment, routing the first segment automatically including routing the first segment automatically using a shortest path first algorithm to substantially avoid including the second element as a component and substantially avoiding including the destination node as a component;

unblocking the second element such that the second element is available for use in routing a second segment automatically, the second segment being a part of the circuit path;

blocking the source node from being available for use in routing the second segment automatically; and

routing the second segment automatically, wherein the second element is a component of the second segment and the source node is not a component of the second segment.

Claim 26 (original): A method as recited in claim 25 further including:

blocking substantially all components of the first segment from being available for use in routing the second segment automatically.

Claim 27 (original): A method as recited in claim 26 wherein a terminus of the first segment is a beginning of the second segment, and the terminus of the first segment is not blocked from being available for use in routing the second segment automatically.

Appl. No. 09/872,141  
 Amd. Dated October 17, 2005  
 Reply to Final Office Action of August 9, 2005 and  
 Advisory Action of October 4, 2005

Claim 28 (currently amended): A method as recited in claim 25 [[ 21 ]] wherein when the first element is a first link, the method further includes:  
 identifying an initial node of the first link.

Claim 29 (original): A method as recited in claim 28 wherein routing the first segment automatically includes routing the first segment from the source node to the initial node of the first link when the first element is the first link.

Claim 30 (original): A method as recited in claim 29 further including:  
 routing a second segment automatically, wherein the first link is included in the second segment.

Claim 31 (canceled)

Claim 32 (previously presented): A method as recited in claim 30 further including:  
 blocking the destination node from being available for use in routing the first segment automatically, wherein routing the first segment automatically further includes routing the first segment to substantially avoid including the destination node as a component.

Claims 33-36 (canceled)

Claim 37 (previously presented): A computer program product:  
 computer code that causes at least a first element that is to be traversed by the circuit path between the source node and the destination node to be identified;  
 computer code that causes a second element that is to be traversed by the circuit path between the first element and the destination node to be identified;  
 computer code that causes the second element to be blocked from being available for use in routing a first segment;

Appl. No. 09/872,141  
 Amd. Dated October 17, 2005  
 Reply to Final Office Action of August 9, 2005 and  
 Advisory Action of October 4, 2005

computer code that causes the destination node to be blocked from being available for use in routing the first segment;

computer code that causes the first segment to be routed, the first segment being a part of the circuit path, wherein when the first element is a node, the source node and the first element are components of the first segment, the computer code that causes the first segment to be routed including computer code that causes the first segment to be routed using a shortest path first algorithm and computer code that causes the first segment to be routed to substantially avoid including the second network element as a component and to substantially avoid including the destination node as a component;

computer code that causes the second element to be unblocked such that the second element is available for use in routing a second segment, the second segment being a part of the circuit path;

computer code that causes the source node to be blocked from being available for use in routing the second segment;

computer code that causes the second segment to be routed, wherein the second element is a component of the second segment and the source node is not a component of the second segment; and

a computer-readable medium that stores the computer codes.

(Claim 38 (original): A computer program product as recited in claim 37 further including:

computer code that causes substantially all components of the first segment to be blocked from being available for use in routing the second segment automatically.

Claim 39 (currently amended): A computer program product as recited in claim 37 ~~[[ 33 ]]~~ wherein when the first element is a first link, the computer program product further includes:

computer code that causes an initial node of the first link to be identified.

Appl. No. 09/872,141  
 Amd. Dated October 17, 2005  
 Reply to Final Office Action of August 9, 2005 and  
 Advisory Action of October 4, 2005

Claim 40 (original): A computer program product as recited in claim 39 wherein the computer code that causes the first segment to be routed automatically includes computer code that causes the first segment to be routed from the source node to the initial node of the first link when the first element is the first link.

Claim 41 (original): A computer program product as recited in claim 40 further including:

computer code that causes a second segment to be routed automatically, wherein the first link is included in the second segment.

Claim 42 (currently amended): A computer program product as recited in claim 39 [[ 33 ]] wherein the computer-readable medium is one selected from the group consisting of a hard disk, a CD-ROM, a DVD, a computer disk, a tape drive, a computer memory, and a data signal embodied in a carrier wave.

Claims 43-45 (canceled)